



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Homeland Defense Update

About 7,450 National Guard soldiers and airmen available in Wisconsin

Although last week's mobilization order for 70 soldiers of the 32nd Infantry Brigade Headquarters slightly reduces the number of Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen available in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin National Guard still has more than 7,450 personnel available in Wisconsin in the event of state emergencies or to support homeland defense or security missions.

The Wisconsin Guard has been actively involved in the global war on terror since the morning of September 11, 2001. Since that time, more than 57 percent of the Guard's soldiers and airmen have served, or will serve soon, on active duty — either at home or overseas. Most of these 5,590 soldiers and airmen have completed their active duty missions and are back in Wisconsin serving with their Army and Air National Guard units.

Wisconsin's available resources include the National Guard's 500-soldier Rapid Reaction Force, which is capable of responding on short notice anywhere in Wisconsin with an initial force of 125 soldiers, and 375 additional soldiers available within 24 hours to sustain operations as long as required. This mission was transferred to 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery late last year in anticipation of a possible active duty call for 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry. The infantry battalion was ordered to active duty beginning June 6.

Of the Wisconsin National Guard's 9,450 current members, there are about 1,265 serving on active duty. Among those, approximately 1,090 are currently deployed overseas. Another 700 Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers are scheduled to report on active duty in June. Mobilization orders have not been received for about 2,300 other Army National Guard soldiers from Wisconsin who have been alerted for possible active duty in the past three weeks.

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